Scheme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Bharat Nirman (Irrigation, drinking water, roads, rural electrification, housing, and telephone connectivity) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). The major programme for addressing the problem of regional imbalances is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) which was launched in 2006-07 to catalyze development in backward areas through two components, namely, (i) Districts Component covering 250 backward districts and (ii) Special Plans for Bihar and the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) the Backward Regions Grant Fund launched in 2006-07 will continue during the Eleventh Plan. During 2007-08 and 2008-09, a provision of Rs. 5,800 crore has been made annually.

Monthly remuneration for hockey players

*379. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hockey players selected in the National Team are entitled to monthly remuneration;

(b) if so, the details of amount paid to each player, separately for men and women players;

(c) whether Government is aware of reports of delays in payment to these players;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) No, Sir. No monthly remuneration is paid by the Government to any player, including hockey players.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Shortage of housing units

*380. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a shortage of three crore housing units in the country;

(b) if so, the number of units Government proposes to build during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period particularly for the people of low and medium income group in the country;

(c) whether Government would provide special incentives to private sector for this purpose; and

(d) the number of Government sponsored projects going on with the details of projects, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The Technical Group on Estimation of Housing Shortage constituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has estimated the total housing shortage in the country to be 24.7 million at the beginning of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.